CENTRAL 71
*C
979.463

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LAFAYETTE

Contra Costa County
Library
MAR 30 '71

Dorothy Mathews

History 192
College of the Holy Names
[Oakland, Calif.]

1970

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1

I. GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA COUNTY 2-6

Geography

Indian Life

Spanish Period

Mexican Period

II. ACALANES AFTER 1846 6-12

American Control

Purchase of Rancho Acalanes by Elam Brown

Development of the Region

III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF LAFAYETTE. . 13-21

Distribution of the Land

Growth of the Town

Development after Opening of Tunnel, 1937

CONCLUSION 22

APPENDIX 23-24

BIBLIOGRAPHY 25-27

C 1
87

Lafayette, the newest incorporated city in Contra Costa County, is the oldest community in the County. A study of the development of this community provides insight into the development of all of central Contra Costa County. After World War II the population of this area multiplied rapidly as families sought privacy and attractive surroundings for their homes. Since its incorporation as a city in 1968, Lafayette has endeavored to meet the demands of this increased population. The area of Lafayette, however, has a long development from the days when Indians inhabited the tree-covered hills until thirty thousand people made their homes in these same hills and valleys. The establishment of the Rancho Acalanes during the Mexican period, its purchase by Elam Brown and the development of the community under his leadership are factors contributing to the growth of Lafayette.

Contra Costa County, one of the original counties of California in 1850, included all of the land east of the San Francisco Bay, extending from San Pablo Bay on the north, to San Jose on the south, and to the Central Valley on the east. Later, the southern half was made into Alameda County, leaving Contra Costa one of the smallest counties in the state. In its geographical center Mount Diablo rises to almost four thousand feet and constitutes a prominent landmark of Northern California.

Around Mount Diablo lie tree-covered hillsides and fertile valleys, cross-cut by creeks flowing in all directions. These creeks played an important part in the agricultural development of the county; for they distribute water and maintain uniform underground water levels. The trees include oak, laurel, buckeye, birch, pine, and redwoods.[1] Ample food, water, and moderate temperature sustained abundant animal life in past centuries. Early explorers found large numbers of quail, ducks, geese, and even pelicans. They also found great herds of deer, elk, and antelope, numerous grizzle bears, and occasional wild cats. The Indians enjoyed the mild climate and adequate food supply.

---

[1] A description of the geography appears in Mae Fisher Purcell, History of Contra Costa County (Berkeley: Gillick Press, 1940).

The Indians left little physical evidence of their lives. They were primitive, as shown by the skull formations of low mental types. There is no evidence that they used tools. They gathered roots, seeds, acorns, grubs and worms, and occasionally small animals. They made crude shelters for the colder winter months by digging a hole, surrounding it with vertical willow poles, stuck in the ground and pulled together at the top to form a cone. Then, they covered the poles with bushes and bark, and finally mud. The men wore no clothing in the summer and the women wore only tule skirts; in the winter all of them wore crudely made clothes of animal skins. Evidence indicates that most of these Indians were wiped out by epidemics of diseases brought by the European explorers.[2]

Spanish explorers first came to the east side of San Francisco Bay in 1772, four years after Don Jose de Galvez ordered the occupation of Alta California and the establishment of missions and presidios. Don Pedro Fages, searching for a land route to Point Reyes, traveled across the land east of San Francisco Bay as far as the Carquinez Straits and the delta. Then, turning back south he traveled west of Mount Diablo. Four years later Don Juan Bautista de Anza,

---

[2] Frederick J. Hulaniski, ed., The History of Contra Costa County, California (Berkeley: Elms Publishing Co., 1917), pp 107-126.

Jose Joaquin Moraga, and Fray Pedro Font made the next expedition up the east side of the Bay. They followed the same route to Mount Diablo, but returned south on the east side of the mountain. Upon completion of his expedition Anza returned to Mexico, leaving Moraga to establish a presidio and mission at San Francisco.[3]

Explorations were sporadic for the rest of the Spanish period. When Moraga could take time away from the San Francisco Presidio, he explored the inland valleys. Moraga's son, Gabriel, made several journeys into the Contra Costa valleys beginning in 1806. By this time the Indians were beginning to resist the advances of the white men. Gabriel Moraga had the duty to recapture Indians who had run away from the missions and to put down uprisings. The last important expedition during the Spanish period took place in 1811 when Sergeant Jose Antonio Sanchez surveyed the region and named many of the places in the East Bay region.

During these years Spain was losing her foothold in the New World, for Mexico was fighting for independence. Alta

---

[3] See Herbert I. Priestley, trans., A Historical, Political, and Natural Description of California by Pedro Fages, Soldier of Spain, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1937). A longer account appears in Herbert Eugene Bolton, "The Fages Expedition of 1772 as Told in Crespi's Diaries," Fray Juan Crespi Missionary Explorer on the Pacific Coast 1769-1774, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1927). Also, Herbert Eugene Bolton, trans. and ed., "The Contra Costa," Anza's California Expeditions, Font's Complete Diary of the Second Anza Expedition, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1930) IV.

California seemed of little importance, so that nearly a year passed after Mexico gained her independence in 1821 before the people in California knew they were a province of Mexico.

Mexico gave little attention to Alta California and the Northerners were on their own. The mission system crumbled and the last of the Indians returned to their homes. Presidio officials, trying to maintain control of the land, gave land grants to faithful soldiers. By 1834, soldiers owned nearly all of the fertile lands in Contra Costa.[4] Sergeant Candelario Valencia claimed three-fourths of a league in the valley west of Mount Diablo,[5] naming his rancho Acalanes, after the Aklane Indian tribe living in the area. Like the other Mexicans, Valencia developed his rancho only enough to care for the cattle grazing on the land. Eventually he sold it to William Leidesdorff, probably in settlement of a debt.

William Leidesdorff, the son of a Danish father and a

---

[4] Comprehensive studies of land grants include Rose Hollenbaugh Avina, "Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in California" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1934) and Francis James Corbett, "The Public Domain and Mexican Land Grants in California" (unpublished Master's thesis, University of California, 1959).

[5] The mountain became known as Mount Diablo during the Mexican era. Legends about apparitions and strange happenings are in Illustrations of Contra Costa County With Historical Sketches (Oakland: Smith and Elliott, 1878), p. 12 and in J. P. Munro-Fraser, History of Contra Costa County, California (San Francisco: W. A. Slocum and Co.), p. 43-44.

West Indies mulatress, came to San Francisco as master on the sailing ship Julia Ann. He became wealthy by trading land and building warehouses; also he became a political leader in San Francisco, serving as Vice Consul from 1845 until his death in 1848.[6] The Rancho Acalanes was just one of many holdings Leidesdorff acquired and there is no indication that he had any interest in the rancho or that he even saw it.

These were critical years in the development of western America. Mexico owned California, but had neither money nor soldiers to govern the province. The United States, England, and Russia were all interested in controlling the western coast of America. American settlers, scouts, and secret agents came to California, unchallenged by the Mexican government until 1846, when Mexico realized the threats to her control of the province. Knowing that changes in government must be made, political leaders in California were making peaceful negotiations with the United States[7] until a group of men, organized by John C. Fremont captured General Mariano Vallejo in the Bear Flag Revolt,

---

[6] James Francis Manning, "William A. Leidesdorff's Career in California" (unpublished thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1941).

[7] Critical studies of the Mexican-American conflicts, 1846 to 1848, appear in Hubert Howe Bancroft, The Works of Bancroft (San Francisco: The History Co., 1886), XXII.

June 14, 1846.[8] Following this episode other revolutionary groups caused uprisings throughout California. Although the United States actually controlled the government in California by January, 1847, it did not gain legal control of the territory until the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 2, 1848, ended the Mexican War. Among Americans taking part in an uprising at Santa Clara against General Jose Castro in the summer of 1846 were Elam Brown and Nathaniel Jones.

Brown, a widower with four children, served as wagon master for a group of Ohio farmers who came west in 1846.[9] During part of the journey they traveled with the Donner Party, but moved ahead and crossed the Sierras just a few days ahead of the Donners. At Sutter's Fort the group split, some going north and others going south to Santa Clara. Following the skirmish against Castro, Brown went north to work in the redwood lumber mills in Contra Costa.[10] He decided this was where he wanted to settle, but he spent several months looking for land to buy, because at that time the Mexicans refused to sell to Americans. Finally he

---

[8] "The Bear Flag War," Munro-Fraser, op. cit., pp. 160-189.

[9] "Elam Brown," Munro-Fraser, op. cit., pp. 515-531

[10] Alice McNeil Russi, "Elam Brown," Contra Costa Chronicles (Contra Costa County Historical Society, Spring 1966), pp. 5-16. Mrs. Russi was a great-granddaughter of Margaret Brown.

learned that Leidesdorff was willing to sell Rancho Acalanes. Meantime Elam Brown had married Margaret Allen, mother of eleven children and widow of Isaac Allen, a member of Brown's wagon train who had died during the trip west. Brown paid Leidesdorff $900 for the rancho and three hundred head of cattle, with money Mrs. Allen brought west hidden in a clock.[11]

The rancho included 3,329 acres, three-fourths of a league. Identifying it by today's landmarks, the land included is bounded by a line running north and south just east of the Park Theater in the town of Lafayette, north to the crest of hills along the freeway, west to Charles Hill Road, south to the Lafayette Reservoir, and then east to the line running south from the theater.[12] Early boundaries and acreage differ due to the landmarks used in the original claims of the Mexican grants. Rancho Acalanes boundaries were identified by creeks, which changed courses, and the boundaries of adjoining ranchos had other landmarks. After the United States took control of California, all land claims had to be settled by a Land Commission, established by the

---

[11] Mrs. Jennie Bickerstaff Rosenberg, a speech given to the Contra Costa County Historical Society, 1956. Mrs. Rosenberg knew Elam and Margaret Brown when she was a little girl in Lafayette.

[12] Mrs. Rosenberg, speech.

government. Boundaries of Rancho Acalanes were finally determined in 1856.[13] Meanwhile Brown was developing his land.

Elam Brown was the first American settler to farm in Contra Costa. John Marsh[14] had settled on the eastern side of Mount Diablo before Brown came here,[15] but Marsh did no farming other than for his own needs until later years. Americans, doubting they could grow crops in a region where there was no rainfall for six months of the year, hesitated to plant crops. When Brown first settled on the ranch in 1847, he concentrated on the cattle; but the following spring he planted wheat in the valley. Within a few years Contra Costa County was to become the greatest wheat producing area in the state. In the early years of American settlement, however, cattle remained the major product. Fertile lands provided ample feed for the large herds which had been developed by the Mexican rancheros. At annual roundups, each owner branded the calves born to his cattle

---

[13] Munro-Fraser, op. cit., p. 335

[14] P. O. Ray, "John Marsh," Dictionary of American Biography ed. by Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone (New York: Oxford University Press, 1921-50), XII, pp. 301-302.

[15] A description of Contra Costa in 1846 appears in a letter written by John Marsh to Honorable Lewis Cass, Governor of the Territory of Michigan, first published in the Contra Costa Gazette, 1866, reprinted in Illustrations of Contra Costa County with Historical Sketches (Oakland: Smith and Elliott, 1878), pp. 5-6. A footnote in Smith and Elliott says this letter "did much to call public attention to this then unknown region."

that year, determining the number to slaughter by the number born that year. They shipped beef, hides, and tallow from the port in Martinez to other parts of the world. However, Brown and Jones saw the possibilities of farming.

Nathaniel Jones, son-in-law of Margaret Brown and a good friend of Elam, came with Brown to the lumber mill after the skirmish at Santa Clara. Using his first summer's wages at the mill, $100, he bought three hundred and thirty-two acres, one-tenth of the rancho. He planted black locust seeds, brought from the eastern United States, and the trees of "Locust Farm" were a landmark in Happy Valley for many years.[16] These two men became leaders in the development of the county.

During this time government existed only on a local level. At the end of the Mexican War, military governors appointed alcaldes to run their own districts. Elam Brown became the first alcalde in Contra Costa County, the sole voice of authority until election of County Officers after California became a state. In June, 1849, General Bennett Riley, military governor of California, called for an election of delegates to draw up a state constitution. The people of Contra Costa elected Brown as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention at Monterey and then to serve on

---

16 "Nathaniel Jones," Munro-Fraser, op. cit., pp. 588-595.

the first State Legislature. They ratified the Constitution in November, 1849, ten months before the United States accepted California as a state of the Union. Caught up in the problems of slavery, the government of the United States gave little attention to California. State government demanded little of Elam Brown's time and he rapidly developed his ranch.

Both Brown and Jones planted fruit and nut trees as well as vineyards when they first started farming. Their farms provided plenty of food for their families and bumper crops of wheat. For two years Brown took his wheat to mills in San Jose; but, tiring of the long journeys, he found a small horse-powered mill for sale in Benicia and brought it to his farm, the first of four flour mills in Contra Costa County. In 1850 John Marsh built a port at Antioch and farmers began to ship wheat from both Antioch and Martinez. About this time disillusioned gold miners began coming back from the gold fields looking for land to farm as they had done in the east.

Three factors drew men to Contra Costa County: the fertile land supported high grain production, people in San Francisco needed food, and men at the coal mines in eastern Contra Costa and lumber mills in the western part of the county needed supplies. The route between the lumber mills and the port at Martinez crossed Rancho Acalanes and Elam

Brown saw the need for a community to serve the lumbermen. When he came to the area in 1847 "There was not a house in the county, excepting a few adobe buildings, occupied by Mexicans."[17]

Eleven years later in 1858, farmers planted 23,000 acres of wheat and barley.[18] Wheat production soared during the next two decades, creating work for men in blacksmith shops, mills, and stores. By the turn of the century, however, grain production dropped drastically and the little town ceased to grow. Since high grain yields meant high taxes and there was plenty of tillable land, farmers gave little attention to caring for the soil. In an article appearing in the Contra Costa Gazette in 1876 Dr. John Strentzel, father-in-law of John Muir, expressed concern about the poor farming practices.[19] Rising grain production in other parts of the state also influenced the local market. But the early wheat era played an important part in the development of Contra Costa County; it provided the need and the money for the development of roads and communities. One of the first ordinances passed by the County

---

17 Smith and Elliott, op. cit., p. 7.

18 Purcell, op. cit., p. 399.

19 Excerpts of article written by Dr. John Strentzel, "Centennial Papers," Contra Costa Gazette, 1876, reprinted in Smith and Elliott, op. cit., p. 13.

Board of Supervisors required every man between eighteen and forty-five to work five days annually on the county roads or to hire someone else to do the road work.[20]

Brown's little community began with the flour mill operated by John Standish, a direct descendant of Miles Standish, until it burned in 1865. In 1853 the community included a blacksmith shop, hotel, community building housing a church, and a general store.[21] The owner of the store, Benjamin Shreve, was a prominent figure in the development of the town. Passing through the area in 1852, he met Elam Brown who convinced him that he should stay. Shreve, a school teacher, taught twelve students in a school-house he had built on Golden Gate Way. Two years later he opened the store in the building which stands today across the street from the Plaza Park and is known as "Toyland." In 1857 Shreve petitioned Congress for a Post Office in the community then known as Centerville. Since there was already a Centerville, California, registered with the government, Shreve renamed the community LaFayette, after the famous Franch General. Besides operating the general store and acting as Post Master for thirty-three years, Benjamin Shreve farmed two hundred and

---

20 Purcell, op. cit., p. 457.

21 "Lafayette," Midweek Sun, October 23, 1964.

fifty acres which he bought from Brown. Shreve died in 1890, leaving the store to his sons, Milton and Fred, who sold it to Henry Sweet.[22]

Another early settler, John Elston, opened the blacksmith shop in 1853 to serve farmers and lumbermen. He employed Peter Thomson, a Canadian, who became the owner in 1863. Thomson also bought three hundred acres of farm land from Brown. The anvil used by Thomson is now the possession of the Lafayette Historical Committee and in May 1970 will be on permanent display at the Lafayette Library.

Elam Brown did not enjoy political life, but his sons were active in Contra Costa County offices throughout their lives. Warren served as County Surveyor from 1850 to 1869 then as County Sheriff for two years. A second son, Thomas, served as County Clerk, then Supervisor, and became a Judge of the Superior Court in 1880. Nathaniel Jones also served as County Sheriff, Public Administrator, and Supervisor during his lifetime.

By 1868 people made arrangements for the second schoolhouse to serve the thirty children of the community. A school tax calling for the sum of $1000 passed by a vote of sixteen to three, enabling L. H. Hastings and G. W. Hammett to negotiate with Eldridge Dole to erect a building at the

---

22 Mrs. Rosenberg, speech.

cost of $825. The number of children enrolled in the school remained about the same through the rest of the century.[23] The families in the community maintained an interest in education and culture from the earliest days of the town. In 1860 they established the first Library Association in the County, which has continued to serve the town until the present day.

Lafayette, although the oldest town in the County, was slow to grow. Early lumbermen rapidly depleted the redwood forests and by 1868 the nearby mills closed down.[24] With the closing down of the coal mines and lumber mills the town lacked impetus to grow. By 1910 ninety percent of the tillable land area of the County was being farmed.[25] At that time Lafayette included a hotel, church, school, store, meat market, blacksmith shop, saloon, and Post Office, little larger than it had been forty years earlier.

In 1902 Robert Elam McNeil bought the "Pioneer Store" from Henry Sweet. Facing the town plaza, the store served as the gathering place of the community where people

---

[23] "School Election Notice"; "Agreement for building a school house in Lafayette School District," dated August 15, 1870; and "Public School Registers 1868-1888."

[24] Titus Fey Cronise, The Natural Wealth of California (San Francisco: H. H. Bancroft & Co., 1868), p. 156.

[25] Appendix I, part of a map dated May 1893, shows the division of Rancho Acalanes into farms.

pitched horseshoes, wrestled, ran foot races, or gathered inside to listen to "a contraption called a grammophone."[26] Supplies for the store came to Walnut Creek by train, then to Lafayette by wagon; perishables came from Oakland by wagon over Fish Ranch Road. Later, drivers brought supplies for the store through the high level tunnel, carrying a revolver to protect them from occasional holdups. Robert McNeil's wife, Gertrude, was the first woman to travel through the old tunnel from Oakland.

In 1877 a tunnel through the hills to Oakland was started, but soon abandoned. Twenty years later under the leadership of William Buckley, people on both sides of the hills subscribed funds to build a new tunnel. This one was completed, high on the hill above the present Caldecott tunnel in 1897. Mrs. Jennie Bickerstaff Rosenberg, who lived in Lafayette from 1875 to 1964, remembered traveling through this old tunnel. "We had to hold our whip out to the side of the rig in order to help guide us through the tunnel it was so dark."[27] After completion of the tunnel, professional men in Oakland, looking for a quiet atmosphere, moved their families to Lafayette.

---

[26] William L. McNeil, "Some Reflections on the Pioneer Store of Lafayette, California 1855-1935," June 20, 1963.

[27] "Knave," Oakland Tribune, September 6, 1964.

Three year old Jennie Bickerstaff (Rosenberg) came to Lafayette with her parents in 1875. Four years later her father bought one acre of land from Elam Brown for $84. After graduating from San Jose Normal School in 1892, she returned to teach school in several districts in Contra Costa County. After retiring from teaching, she and her husband lived until 1964 in the house her father had built on the road later known as Mt. Diablo Boulevard near Dewing Avenue. Mrs. Rosenberg was the source for information and colorful stories about early Lafayette for she knew the Browns and other early Lafayette families.[28]

Railroads brought another impetus to growth for the community. Railroads serving the mines had been built as early as 1866, but passenger service did not begin until 1913.[29] Lewis Rodebaugh, Traffic Manager for the Sacramento Northern, wrote in his memoirs:

> The awakening of Lafayette came in 1913 with the commencement of Oakland, Antioch, and Eastern railroad passenger and commute train service to and from Oakland and San Francisco....[30]

---

[28] "Lafayette, Other Mid-County Early Days Recalled by Teacher," Contra Costa Gazette, Centennial Edition, December 7, 1959.

[29] Louis L. Stein, "Oldtimer Recalls Early Trains," Contra Costa Times, February 16, 1969.

[30] Lewis Rodebaugh, "Pre-Railway Lafayette was Two-Store One Horse Town," Mid-week Sun, January 15, 1969.

The railroad began in 1911, operated by the San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose Consolidated Railways, later known as the Key System. In April 1913 passenger service began between San Francisco and Port Chicago and, in the following September, it was extended to Sacramento. With the availibility of commute service, Lafayette attracted more people who worked in Oakland and San Francisco. One day Mr. Rodebaugh commented to some passengers that "If there was a hindrance to the growth of Lafayette it was that water was hard to find. Many wells had been put down with many failures."[31] A short time later Colonel M. M. Garrett, George Meredith, and H. M. Stanley called the people together to form the Lafayette County Water District. Meredith became a leading developer of the area and, along with George Faye of Oakland, he was instrumental in bringing improvements to the community. In 1923 the railroad, now called the "Sacramento Short Line" had eleven daily trains running each way between San Francisco and Sacramento; eight of them stopped in Lafayette.[32] The trains continued to serve the community until after World War I when automobiles came into general use. With the completion of the new tunnel in 1937 bus lines began serving the area, cutting passenger earnings

---

[31] Ibid.

[32] Timetables, August 12, 1923 and May 15, 1938.

of the railroads; finally on June 30, 1941, the last passenger train made its run.

Because the old tunnel was not adequate for cars, George Meredith and George Faye saw the need for a new highway and new tunnel, but the local people could not affort the cost. In 1926 the people established a commission to investigate possible routes and to convince the state officials of the need for state aid. Studies showed that most people using the roads started and terminated their journeys at points outside the county, most of the travel being between Oakland and Sacramento. Finally in 1931 the state agreed to pay for new highways, two running east and west and one running north and south, and a new tunnel costing $4,000,000, which opened in 1937.[33] At that time the population of Lafayette was four thousand.

Following World War II the area became a center of a construction boom with thousands of homes built within a few short years. In 1952 the population reached nearly ten thousand and by 1959 nearly twenty-one thousand.[34] The business district of Lafayette grew rapidly to meet the needs of the larger community. In 1946 Jack Lloyd, a local businessman, wrote other businessmen in the community urging

---

[33] Purcell, op. cit., pp. 458-461.

[34] Population figures received from the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, based on information from the U. S. Post Office.

them to meet the need for an organization "To encourage the development of a good looking business section, ... Incorporation of Lafayette is a certainty." The Lafayette Business Men's Association was formed as a result of his action. The following year the Association became the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.[35] As people discussed community plans, they often talked about incorporation. During the next twelve years study groups considered advantages and disadvantages of incorporation; but, when voting in 1959, they rejected it.

In 1958 the Chamber of Commerce established the Lafayette Design Project, under the leadership of Stewart Wade and Jack Hageman, to study ways of making the community more attractive to businessmen and homeowners.[36] At the request of the Design Project Committee, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation did a twelve month study, emphasizing street development and beautification, parking facilities, and parks.[37] This study became the basis for future planning. Today the town plaza, center of the early town, is a pleasant little park with the mill wheel of Elam Brown's flour mill on display. Mt. Diablo Boulevard is lined with trees, shrubs,

---

[35] Minutes, Lafayette Business Men's Association, February 7, 1947.

[36] Jane Putnam, "Second Generation on Design Project," The Sun, July 22, 1966.

[37] Aaron G. Green, Report to Lafayette Design Project from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, October, 1961.

and water fountains instead of utility poles which are underground. Businessmen limit the size of store signs and endeavor to create an attractive downtown shopping area. The Design Project has made other important contributions to the community.

In 1966 the Design Project began another study of incorporation. After a two-year study, in July, 1968, fifty-seven percent[38] of the voters finally supported incorporation of the city with its boundaries nearly the same as the school district boundaries.[39] On August 1, 1968, the City Council met for the first time to assume the responsibilities for services formerly provided by the County, facing problems of providing police protection and of maintaining the miles of country roads serving the nearly thirty thousand residents.

At the request of the Design Project, in 1968, members of the Library Association Board established a Historical Committee to collect materials and information pertaining to the development of Lafayette. Thus, giving the people of the community the opportunity to know about the early history and development of their city.[40]

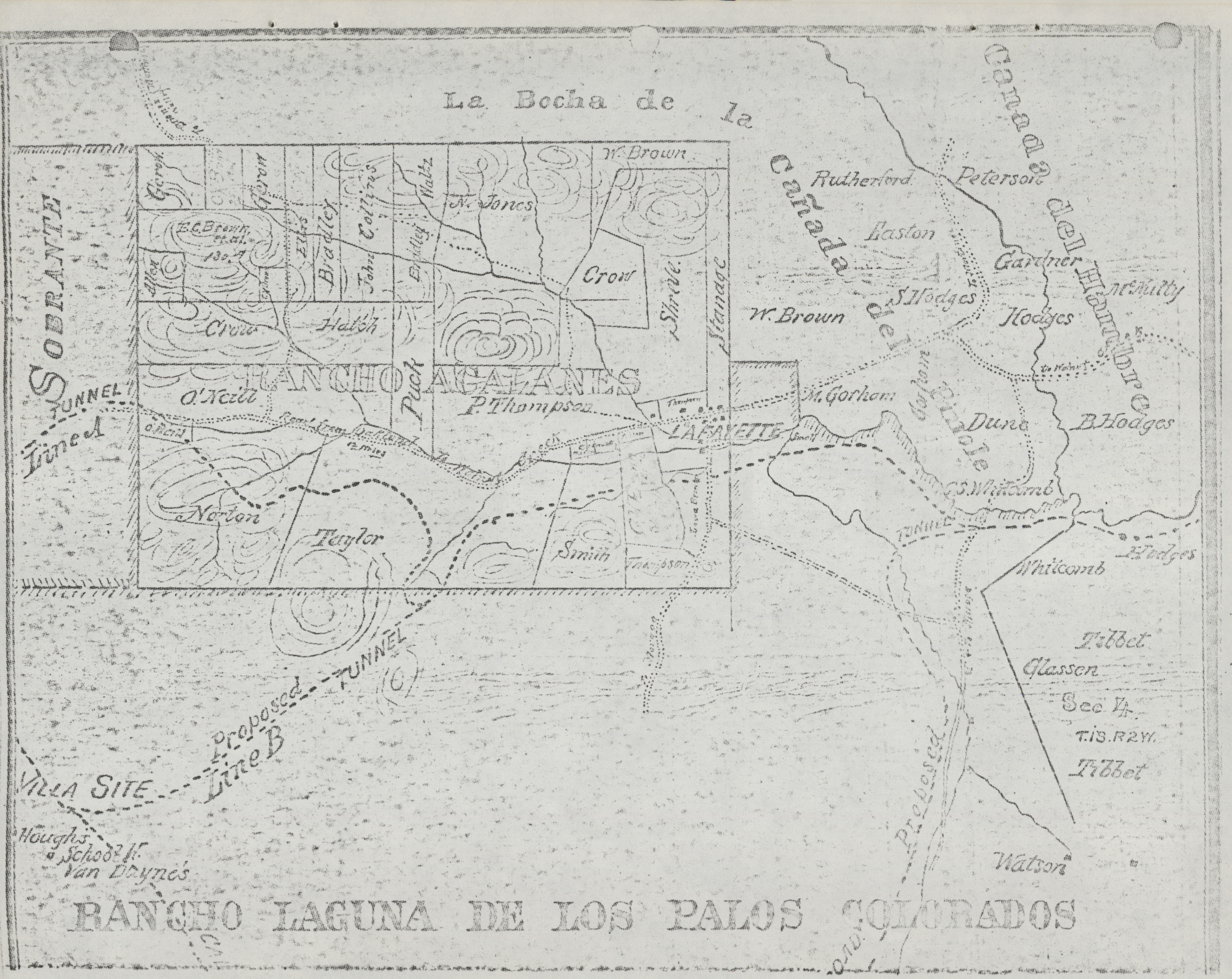
---

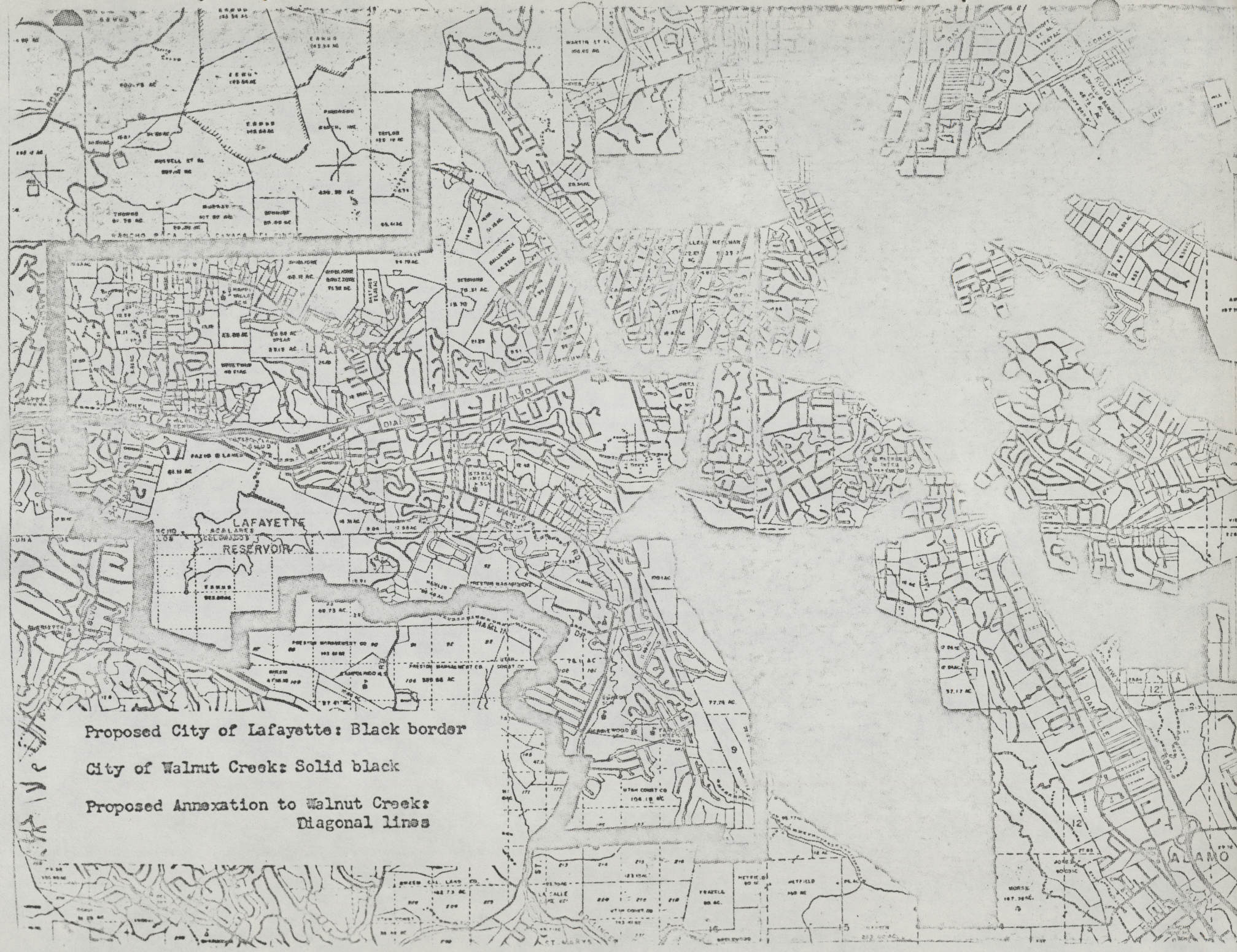
[38] The Sun, July 24, 1966.

[39] Appendix II, map, Chamber of Commerce.

[40] Information given to the writer by Mrs. Fern Davis, Historical Committee Chairman.

The history of Lafayette is typical of the history of other communities in Contra Costa County. The town began when farmers first settled the rich valleys. Its early growth, slowed by inaccessibility, gained impetus with improved means of transportation in recent years. The attractive countryside, noted by early Spanish explorers, early American settlers, and present-day historians provides a restful atmosphere for thirty thousand people. With careful planning this area will remain beautiful for coming generations.


La Bocha de la Cañada del Hambre
Cañada del Pinole
Sobrante
Rancho Agalanes
Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados
Rutherford
Peterson
Easton
Gardner
McNulty
S. Hodges
W. Brown
Hodges
M. Gorham
Dune
B. Hodges
Whitcomb
Tibbet
Glassen
Sec 4
T.1S.R2W.
Watson
Proposed
Tunnel
Line A
Line B
Villa Site
Houghs
Van Daynes
Norton
Taylor
Smith
Thompson
Crow
Hatch
O'Neill
P. Thompson
Puck
Shreve
Stanage
N. Jones
Bradley
John Collins
Waltz
Gerow
Allen
Lafayette


LAFAYETTE
RESERVOIR
Proposed City of Lafayette: Black border
City of Walnut Creek: Solid black
Proposed Annexation to Walnut Creek:
Diagonal lines

BIBLIOGRAPHY

a. Bibliographical Aids

California Local History: A Centennial Bibliography. Edited by Ethel Blumann, et al. Compiled by the California Library Association, Committee on Local History. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1950.

b. Reference Books

Ray, P. O. "John Marsh," *Dictionary of American Biography.* Edited by Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, Vol XII, pp. 301-302

c. Primary Sources

"Agreement for Building a School House in LaFayette School District." August 15, 1870.

Bancroft, Hubert Howe. *The Works of Bancroft.* San Francisco: The History Company, 1886. Vols. XVIII-XXVI.

Bolton, Herbert Eugene, trans. *Anza's California Expeditions: Font's Complete Diary of the Second Anza Expedition.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1930. Vol IV.

Cronise, Titus Fey. *The Natural Wealth of California.* San Francisco: H. H. Bancroft and Co., 1868.

Green, Aaron G. *Report to Lafayette Design Project from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.* October, 1961.

Illustrations of Contra Costa County with Historical Sketches. Oakland: Smith and Elliott, 1878. Reprint, Sacramento Lithograph Co., 1952.

Lafayette Business Men's Association. Minutes of meeting, February 7, 1947.

Lloyd, Jack. Letter to businessmen, February 15, 1946.

Marsh, John. Letters to Honorable Lewis Cass, 1846. Reprinted *Illustrations of Contra Costa County with Historical Sketches.*

McNeil, William L. "Some Reflections on the Pioneer Store of Lafayette, California, 1855-1935." June 20, 1963.

Munro-Fraser, J. P. History of Contra Costa County, California. San Francisco: W. A. Slocum and Co., 1878.

Priestley, Herbert Ingram, trans. A Historical, Political and Natural Description of California by Pedro Fages, Soldier of Spain. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1937.

"Public School Registers." Lafayette. 1868-1888.

Railroad Timetables. Sacramento Short Line, August 12, 1923; Sacramento Northern, May 15, 1938

Rosenberg, Jennie Bickerstaff. Speech to Contra Costa County Historical Society, 1956.

School Election Notice, 1868.

d. Secondary Sources

History of Contra Costa County, California. Los Angeles: Historic Record Co., 1926.

Hulaniski, Frederick J., ed. The History of Contra Costa County, California. Berkeley: Elms Publishing Co., 1917.

Purcell, Mae Fisher. History of Contra Costa County. Berkeley: Gillick Press, 1940.

Rolle, Andrew F. California, a History. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1963.

Russi, Alice McNeil. "Elam Brown," Contra Costa Chronicles. Contra Costa County Historical Society, Spring 1966, pp. 5-16.

e. Unpublished Theses

Avina, Rose Hollenbaugh. "Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in California." Unpublished Master's Thesis. University of California, Berkeley, 1934.

Corbett, Francis James. "The Public Domain and Mexican Land Grants in California." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1959.

Manning, James Francis. "William A. Leidesdorff's Career in California." Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1941.

f. Newspapers

Contra Costa Gazette, May 29, 1959.

Contra Costa Times, February 16, 1969.

Oakland Tribune, September 6, 1964.

The Sun (Lafayette), October 23, 1964.

---------- July 22, 1966.

---------- January 15, 1969.

g. Interviews

Davis, Fern. April 16, 1970.